

United States Senate

November 15, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary
Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretaries Blinken and Yellen,

We write regarding Iraq-based terrorist militias linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in Iran who are responsible for multiple attacks on U.S. servicemembers throughout the Middle East. While some of these groups are designated as foreign terrorist organizations (FTO), they are increasingly rebranding and reforming to evade terrorist designations and sanctions. In addition to a military response to deter these groups, we urge you to extend FTO designations to hold them accountable for their attacks on American citizens.

Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. Iran empowers, trains, equips, and funds Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis in Yemen. Iran similarly supports various Shia extremist groups in Iraq. In recent months, these Iraq-based terror groups reportedly murdered a U.S. citizen in Baghdad, murdered a U.S. contractor and wounded four U.S. service personnel in Syria, and abducted a U.S.-based researcher. Many of these Iraq-based groups participated in the more than two dozen attacks on U.S. troops in the region since October 17. In each such attack, groups responsible have ties to the IRGC but are not currently designated as FTOs under U.S. law.

The United States has an obligation to protect its citizens, which means ensuring that IRGC-linked organizations can't terrorize them under different names. As Iranian influence expands through regional proxies, those proxies must carry the same terrorist designation as their sponsor. We urge the Department of State to extend the FTO designation to the Iraq-based groups listed in the attachment to this letter and update those designations as needed to ensure they remain effective. We also urge the Department of the Treasury to sanction these groups and their financial networks.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.


Sincerely,



Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR)




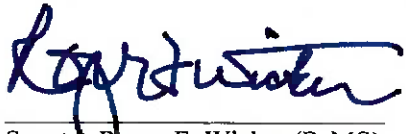
Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)


Senator Bill Hagerty (R-TN)


Senator Joni K. Ernst (R-IA)


Senator Rick Scott (R-FL)


Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)


Senator Roger F. Wicker (R-MS)

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Appendix: List of Iraq-based Shia militia IRGC proxies to be designated and sanctioned

We request that you designate the following Shia Militia groups in Iraq as IRGC proxies:

- (1) Munadhamat Badr** (Badr Organization)
- (2) Ashab al-Kahf** (People of the Cave/Companions of the Cave)
- (3) Liwaa Thaer al-Muhandis** (al-Mohandes's Revenge Brigade)
- (4) Tashkil al-Warithuun** (aka the Inheritors)
- (5) Liwa al-Ghalibun** (Brigade of the Victors)
- (6) Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada** (The Master of Martyrs Brigade)
- (7) Usbat al-Thaireen** (League of the Revolutionaries)
- (8) Liwa al-Baqir** (The Baqir Brigades)
- (9) Liwa al-Imam al-Hussein** (The Imam Hussein Brigades)